

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for storing a parcel sent to a consumer and delivered by a delivery agent, said apparatus comprising:
a storage locker;
a lock coupled to said storage locker and configured to secure said storage locker in a closed state;
a delivery access key for adapted to open said lock for accessing of said storage locker by said delivery agent;
wherein said delivery access key is configured to change to an item access key after said storage locker is accessed with said delivery access key, said item access key being adapted to open said lock and permit access to said storage locker by said consumer.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key is synchronized with a key accessible at a location that is remote from said lock.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 2 ~~further comprising a network selectively coupled between said remote location and~~ wherein said lock is configured to allow communication between said remote location and said lock.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein:
said lock is a mechanical lock and said delivery access key and said item access key ~~is are~~ passwords for accessing a physical key that opens said lock.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein:
said lock is an electronic lock.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein:
at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key is a card key.
7. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 6 wherein:
said card key is a smart card.
8. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 6 wherein:
said card key is an integrated circuit card.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein:
said lock is a biometric lock and at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key is a biometric key.
10. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein:
said storage locker includes environmental controls.
11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of said storage lockers.
12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein:
a dimension of each of at least two of said storage lockers is different.
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein:
said delivery access key and said item access key ~~is~~are capable of accessing a plurality of said storage lockers.
14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein:
at least two of said plurality of storage lockers are secured by a common lock.
15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a parcel for receipt by a consumer, said method comprising:
unlocking a storage locker with a delivery access key and placing said parcel in a said storage locker, wherein said storage locker is located in a depot selected by said consumer;
locking said storage locker; and
~~wherein said storage locker is accessible with a key; and,~~
changing said delivery access key to an item access key adapted to unlock said storage locker, wherein said delivery access key is disabled from opening said storage locker key ~~to subsequent to said key being used.~~
17. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
synchronizing at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key with another key that is accessible at a location that is remote from said lock.
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
~~using said key to retrieve another key;~~
unlocking said storage locker with said ~~another~~ item access key.
19. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
contacting a central system using a delivery management device; and,
retrieving at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key from said central system.
20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
contacting a central system with a delivery management device and logging said ~~delivery~~ placing step.
21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20 wherein:
said logging includes providing a parcel identification and a storage locker identification to said central system.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising:
said central system determining said item access key using said storage locker
identification; and
said central system forwarding said item access key and said storage locker
identification for receipt by said consumer.
23. (Original) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising:
said central system updating a status of said storage locker.
24. (Original) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising:
said central system providing said consumer with at least said storage locker
identification.
25. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising:
said central system providing said consumer with said item access key.
26. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising:
said system verifying that at least one of said parcel identification and said
storage locker identification was sent to said consumer.
27. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising:
said system verifying that at least one of said parcel identification and said
storage locker identification was received by said consumer.
28. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
said storage locker registering with a central system;
wherein said registration includes providing a status of said storage locker, said
status being selected from the group comprising "available", "occupied", "open",
"closed", and "stale".
29. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 28 wherein said
registration step further comprises:

providing ~~an~~said initial item access key for said storage locker upon said status changing to "closed".

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 28 further comprising:
said storage locker updating said status to "available" subsequent to said storage locker being opened by said consumer with said item access key.
31. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 25 further comprising:
said storage locker updating said status to "stale" subsequent to said storage locker being ~~locked in~~ said "closed" status for a predetermined period of time.
32. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 31 further comprising:
said storage locker changing said item access key subsequent to said storage locker being locked for said predetermined period of time.
33. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16 further comprising:
a central system having at least another key synchronized with at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key; and, said central system changing said another key to keep said another key synchronized with said at least one of said delivery access key and said item access key.
34. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a parcel from a sender to a consumer, said method comprising:
said sender providing said parcel ~~and a depot selection~~ to a delivery agent;
said consumer selecting a depot for delivery of said parcel
said delivery agent delivering said parcel to said depot;
~~subsequent to arriving at said depot, said delivery agent selecting a storage locker in which to place said parcel in said depot; and~~
unlocking said storage locker with a delivery access key and placing said parcel into said storage locker;

subsequent to placing said parcel into said storage locker, said delivery agent providing a parcel identification and a storage locker identification to a central system;

said central system changing said delivery access key to an item access key;

said central system causing said consumer to be contacted and provided with said depot selection, said storage locker identification, and a said item access key for accessing said storage locker;

said consumer arriving at said depot and using said item access key to retrieve said parcel from said storage locker.

35. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for storing a parcel comprising:

a storage locker;

an electronic combination lock coupled to said storage locker and configured to secure said storage locker in a closed state, wherein said lock is configured to unlock when a ~~predetermined~~ delivery access key is entered;

wherein said delivery access key that unlocks said combination lock is configured to change to an item access key upon being used to unlock said lock; and

wherein said key is synchronized with a key accessible at a location that is remote from said lock.

36. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 29 wherein said remote location is in communication with said lock via a network.

37. (Canceled)

38. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said delivery access key is disabled after changing to said item access key.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 30, further comprising the step of recalculating a second delivery access key, said second delivery access key being different from said delivery access key.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 31, further comprising the step of changing said item access key to a second item access key and disabling said item access key, wherein said second item access key is different from said item access key.